

Progress in the Lowell Community to Date – May 5, 2010

Police Department

Parole Violations – 121
Probation Violations – 138
Parole Searches and Warrants – 68
Prostitution Arrests – 112
Narcotics Arrests – 149
Weapons, Assaults and Robbery – 53
Arrests Warrants Served - 156
Graffiti Arrests – 6

Code Enforcement

On February 17, 2009, as a result of a request from the residents of Lowell, Code Enforcement did a focused enforcement within the community. This added 381 new violations to the approximate 60 cases already in the system.

Today in Lowell, there are 73 active Code cases:

16 - Vacant Building cases
24 – Over height fence cases
17 - Multi-Family Safe Housing cases
16 – Miscellaneous Cases

Lead Abatement Program

Additionally, through their lead-based paint program, officers have identified 95 properties within Lowell that qualify for the program. Four of those properties totaling 13 units have work currently in progress. The remaining 91 have received applications and information, of which several are in the process of being followed up on.

Redevelopment Agency

1130 E. Franklin Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701. This is a Neighborhood Stabilization program (NSP) home currently in escrow, to a couple that are already renters in Lowell!

137 N. College Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701. This is also an NSP home. Rehabilitation will be completed in approximately two weeks. At that time, the home will be placed on the market for resale to an income eligible homeowner.

129 N. College Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701. This is an RDA property (it does not qualify as an NSP property). RDA recently closed escrow on the acquisition of this property on April 15, 2010. In the next two weeks, the front yard will be landscaped with sprinklers added and the front of the home will receive a new front door, replacement of broken glass, and new paint. These immediate improvements are necessary to complement

the reconstruction of 137 N. College Avenue which as explained above will be placed on the market for sale in the next two weeks

237 N. Park Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701. This is an RDA property (it did not previously qualify as an NSP property). An architect has been hired, through an RFQ process, to provide a recommendation for the development of this property (i.e. rehabilitation of the existing structure versus redesign/redevelopment). We should have those results back next week.

329 N. College Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701. This is an RDA property. It is presently an unoccupied four-plex. RDA is currently investigating development alternatives (including conversion or redevelopment as a single family home). A meeting is scheduled this week with another architect selected through an RFQ process.

473 N. Glenn Avenue, Fresno, CA 93701: This is an RDA property. An architect has been hired, through an RFQ process, to provide design/development alternatives. We expect to have that completed within four weeks.

Public Utilities

Continues street sweeping twice each week (once per side)
Alleys cleaned up - every two weeks

On October 24, 2009, several Public Utilities staff spent the day volunteering on Make A Difference Day within the Lowell neighborhood and did such projects as: cleaning up the surrounding neighborhood, doing paint touch-ups, picking up debris, planting flowers, helping on a mosaic tile project at Lowell Elementary, as well as many other chores.

This was a partnership between HandsOn Central California and the city of Fresno. Mayor Ashley Swearingin was there to kick off the event and spent several hours participating. Other partners were Heald College, Eye-Q Vision Center and the Fresno Redevelopment Agency.

Public Works

Numerous repairs have been made to streets, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters within Lowell

Reconstruction of storm drains and correction of drainage problems

Four-way stop added near Lowell School.

Beginning Monday, November 30, Public Works' tree trimming contractor began making their way through the Lowell Neighborhood to bring some extra TLC to trees in the neighborhood. The project took approximately three (3) to complete the trimming work on existing trees in the neighborhood.

Housing & Community Development

Lowell Housing Rehab Program – Three (3) homes are currently under contract to be rehabilitated in the next several weeks

Also through the CDBG Program, we are working with FUND Inc., - Four (4) homes will be assisted

Partnered with Habitat for Humanity - and built two (2) new homes on Echo Ave.

Working on the rehabilitation of a historic home on Echo, to be completed within next three (3) months

PARCS

In March, 24 moms from Lowell Elementary teamed up with the City and HandsOn Central CA for a day of service at Dickey Park.

Plans are underway to remove the wading pool and construct a new Splash Park at Dickey, which will begin this month.

Improvements at Dickey Park:

- New slide is on order
- Removed the trailer that was on the volleyball court
- New light timers installed, keeping the lights on later at the park
- New drinking fountain installed
- New metal doors on restrooms installed
- New fencing on baseball diamond
- New backstop
- Fencing repaired
- Removed graffiti
- Unplugged clogged sewer drains
- Picnic tables and bleachers repaired

- Pool fencing and water valve on
- swimming pool repaired

Also, plans are currently underway to construct a new playground at San Pablo Park, which is at the corner of San Pablo and Belmont. This was brought about as a result of PARCS Department reaching out to the community to determine what the community felt was the best and highest use for that area.

FIRE

In October, the Fire Department initiated a Smoke Detector Program in Lowell. They visited 884 residences and installed 335 smoke detectors and batteries.

And the above was only accomplishments that occurred within Lowell! I'm certain there were many more things that occurred that is not captured here, but you get the gist. All in all it's been a fun-filled (work is fun, right) year with so many accomplishments. I truly am grateful to the departments within the City of Fresno that have been responsible for working together in a professional fashion to make all of the above "wins" happen.